

CATHARINE STEVENSON.

LETTER

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF WAR,

TRANSMITTING

A report from the Commissioner of Pensions, relative to the claim of Catharine Stevenson.

JANUARY 24, 1845.

Read, and referred to the Committee on Revolutionary Pensions.

WAR DEPARTMENT, January 16, 1845.

SIR: In answer to a resolution of the House of Representatives of the 14th instant, requiring the Secretary of War "to transmit to the House the papers in his office on the subject of the claim of Catharine Stevenson, of Knox county, Ohio, for a pension," I transmit herewith a report of the Commissioner of Pensions, which contains all the papers required by the resolution.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

WM. WILKINS,
Secretary of War.

HON. JOHN W. JONES,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PENSION OFFICE, January 15, 1845.

SIR: In obedience to the resolution of the House of Representatives of the 14th instant, requesting the Secretary of War to transmit to that body the papers in support of the claim of Catharine Stevenson, of Knox county, Ohio, I enclose herewith said papers, and a copy of a letter from this office to A. Day, esq., of the 3d July, 1843. The papers are marked from A to H, inclusive.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, sir, your obedient servant,
J. L. EDWARDS.

HON. WM. WILKINS, *Secretary of War.*

A.

George Stevenson's declaration.

STATE OF OHIO, *Knox county*, ss.

On the twenty-ninth day of September, one thousand eight hundred and thirty-two, personally appeared, in open court, before the judges of the court of common pleas in and for the county of Knox, now sitting, George Stevenson, a resident of Jackson township, in the county of Knox, and State of Ohio, aged seventy-six years on the 13th day of October last, who, being first duly sworn according to law, doth, on his oath, make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7, 1832: That he entered the service of the United States, under the following named officers, and served as herein stated, viz: Captain Samuel Culberson, who was afterwards promoted to colonel in the flying camp; 1st Lieut. John Reynolds, who was promoted to the captain's command; 2d Lieutenant Samuel Henry, and Ensign Reuben Galespy; and entered the service about the 1st of August, 1776, served three months, and left the service about the 1st of November same year, for that time; resided, when he entered the service, near Chambersburg, in Franklin county, Pennsylvania; was draughted into the service, the first time, and marched from Chambersburg to Amboy, in the State of New Jersey, and staid there until discharged. And again he entered the service of the United States, under the following officer, viz: Captain James McCammon; and he, said applicant, was lieutenant; and entered the service in the month of November, 1776, and served five months at that time. Resided, when he entered the service, near Chambersburg, as aforesaid. He entered as a volunteer in a company, and served under General Washington. Marched from Chambersburg to General Washington's encampment, on the Delaware river, opposite to Trenton. Then, by General Washington's orders, his company was sent across the Delaware as a scouting party, to observe the movements of the enemy; and marched through part of New Jersey, through by-roads, until they got about four miles below Princeton, where they met with a regiment of the enemy, and had a small engagement with them about the 1st of January, 1777; and then marched back to Trenton, and met with Washington's army; and then marched with the army to Princeton; was in the engagement with the enemy at Trenton, and also at Princeton. On the morning after the battle at Princeton, the company to which he (said applicant) belonged was detached as a scouting party; and, on the road between Princeton and Brunswick, overtook three baggage-wagons of the enemy, and took them, and made prisoners of their guard, to the number of forty-nine, and took them back to Princeton to General Putnam; and then passed the balance of the winter in reconnoitring the enemy's lines about Brunswick; left the service at Slabstown, and got home in April, 1777; was acquainted with Generals Washington, Putnam, and Wayne. And again he entered the service of the United States, in a volunteer company, about the 1st of September, 1777, under the following officers, viz: Captain James McCammon, and said applicant (George Stevenson) lieutenant. Rendezvoused at Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, about the 1st of September, 1777, and marched to Valley Forge, where he met

with General Washington's army, a short time after the battle of Brandywine; and he and the company to which he belonged was appointed by General Washington as a company of rangers, to scout the country, and cut off foraging parties of the enemy; in which service they continued until the battle of Germantown, where they happened to be near at its commencement, and marched to the engagement, and fell in with General Wayne's division, and fought in the battle; and then continued under orders of General Washington, in the service of scouting and annoying the enemy's lines, until the 1st of April, 1778, when he left the service, and returned home, having served seven months at that time. And then, in about a week after his return home, in April 1778, he was again draughted into the service as a lieutenant in a militia company, (holding a lieutenant's commission,) and served under the following named officers, viz: General Washington, General Lacy, and Captain Joseph Culberson. Said claimant, George Stevenson, 1st lieutenant; James Caldwell, 2d lieutenant; John Shields, ensign—entered in April, 1778, served three months, and left the service in July same year. Marched from Chambersburg to General Washington's army, above Philadelphia, then across the Schuylkill, and joined General Lacy, served with him during the three months' tour, and then returned home. And again, in the spring of 1780, while at the station on the mouth of Short creek, in Western Virginia, defending the frontier from the depredations of the Indians, he was sent an express to the fort at Wheeling; and, while in that service, was taken prisoner by the Indians, and struck in the head with a tomahawk, and taken to Detroit, and there delivered up to the English governor; and there put aboard of a vessel, and sent to Fort Niagara; and then sent from that place to Montréal, and then to Québec, where he was put under irons and thrown into prison, where he continued for two years; and then let out to labor, under bail of a Frenchman, for three months; and then remanded back to prison for about six months, and then put aboard a vessel, and sent to New York, and liberated, and returned home in the fall of 1783, after an absence of three years and three months. He also states that while in the service, in the fall or winter of 1777, he found an advertisement on a sign-post, offering a reward of one hundred and fifty dollars each for his captain and himself, dead or alive, by the enemy. He also states that he has no documentary evidence; and that he knows of no person now living, whose testimony he can procure, who can testify to his service.

The following interrogatories were propounded to the applicant:

Question.—Where, and in what year were you born?

Answer.—In Franklin county, Pennsylvania, on the 13th of October, 1755.

Question.—Have you any record of your age?

Answer.—My age was recorded in my father's family Bible, but is now worn out.

Question.—Where were you living when called into the service; where have you lived since the revolutionary war; and where do you now live?

Answer.—When called into the service, I lived in Franklin county, Pennsylvania; moved from there to the western part of Virginia; and from there, in 1822, to Knox county, Ohio, where I now live.

Question.—How were you called into the service?

Answer.—I was first draughted, then volunteered, and again draughted.

Question.—State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops where you served ; such continental and militia regiments as you can recollect ; and the general circumstances of your service.

Answer.—Generals Washington, Wayne, Putnam, Lacy, and Potter ; the numbers of each regiment I do not recollect ; some of the general circumstances I have detailed.

Question.—Did you ever receive a commission ? if so, by whom was it signed, and what has become of it ?

Answer.—Yes ; I held a lieutenant's commission ; by whom it was signed I do not now recollect. I lost the commission while a prisoner, being stripped of part of my clothing.

He also states that Wm. McWilliams, Insley D. Johnston, Patrick Elliott, and Rev. Henry Harvey, can testify as to his character for veracity, and their belief of his services as a soldier of the revolution.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or an annuity, except the present ; and he declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any agency in any State.

his
GEORGE x STEVENSON,
mark.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

ALEX. ELLIOTT, *Clerk.*

We, James Scott, a clergyman, residing in the county of Knox, and State of Ohio, and William McWilliams, residing in said county, hereby certify that we are well acquainted with George Stevenson, who has subscribed and sworn to the above declaration ; that we believe him to be seventy-six years of age ; that he is reputed and believed, in the neighborhood where he resides, to have been a soldier of the revolution ; and that we concur in that opinion.

JAS. SCOTT,
WM. McWILLIAMS.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

ALEX. ELLIOTT, *Clerk.*

And the said court do hereby declare their opinion, after the investigation of the matter, and after putting the interrogatories prescribed by the War Department, that the above-named applicant was a revolutionary soldier, and served as he states.

And the court further certify that it appears to them that [James Scott,] who has signed the preceding certificate, is a clergyman resident in the county of Knox, and State of Ohio ; and that [Wm. McWilliams,] who has also signed the same, is a resident in the said county, and is a credible person ; and their statement is entitled to credit.

I, Alexander Elliott, clerk of the court of common pleas in and for said county of Knox, do hereby certify that the foregoing contains the original proceedings of the said court in the matter of the application of George Stevenson for a pension.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal of office, this [L. s.] 8th day of October, A. D. 1832.

ALEX. ELLIOTT,
Clerk Knox Com. Pleas.

B.

George Stevenson's power of attorney to J. D. Johnston.

Know all men by these presents, that I, George Stevenson, of the county of Knox and State of Ohio, revolutionary soldier, have made, constituted, and appointed, and by these presents do make, constitute, and appoint, and in my place and stead put and depute, Insley D. Johnston, of the county of Knox and State of Ohio, my true and lawful attorney, for me and in my name, and for my use, to ask, demand, and receive all such sum or sums of money, or other demands whatsoever, and which is or shall be due, owing, payable, and belonging to me, by any manner or means whatsoever; especially any money or pension that I may be entitled to obtain from the government of the United States, under the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7, A. D. 832, for services as a revolutionary soldier. Giving and granting, by these presents, my full and whole power, strength, and authority, in and about the premises, to have and to take all lawful ways and means in my name for the purposes aforesaid. And upon the receipt of any such pension, money, or sums of money, acquittances or other sufficient discharges, for me, and in my name, to make, seal, and deliver; hereby ratifying, allowing, and holding, for firm and effectual, all and whatsoever my said attorney shall lawfully do in and about the premises, by virtue hereof.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal this eighth day of August, one thousand eight hundred and thirty-two.

GEORGE STEVENSON, [SEAL.]

Signed, sealed, and delivered, in presence of—

JAMES POLLOCK,
S. F. How.

STATE OF OHIO, *Knox county, ss.*

Personally appeared before the subscriber, an acting justice of the peace in and for said county, George Stevenson, who executed the within power of attorney, and acknowledged the signing and sealing thereof to be his act and deed for the purposes therein expressed.

Given under my hand and seal, officially, this twenty-fifth day of September, [L. s.] A. D. one thousand eight hundred and thirty-two.

WM. McCREARY, *Justice of the Peace.*

STATE OF OHIO, *Knox county, ss.*

I, Alexander Elliott, clerk of the court of common pleas for said county, do hereby certify that Wm. McCreary, esq., before whom the above acknowledgment appears to have been made, was, at the time of taking said acknowledgment, and yet is, an acting justice of the peace for said county, duly commissioned and sworn; and full faith is due to all his official acts as such, as well in courts of justice as thereout. And I further certify that the above signature, purporting to be his signature, is genuine.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and the seal of said court, at Mount Vernon, this twenty-eighth day of September, [L. s.] A. D. one thousand eight hundred and thirty-two.

ALEX. ELLIOTT, *Clerk.*

C.

*Catharine Stevenson's affidavit.*STATE OF OHIO, *Knox county, ss.*

On this ninth day of April, A. D. one thousand eight hundred and thirty-nine, personally appeared before the court of common pleas of the county and State aforesaid, *Catharine Stevenson*, a resident of Jackson township, in the county of Knox, *aged over seventy years*, who, being first duly sworn according to law, doth, on her oath, make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed July 7, 1838, entitled "An act granting half-pay and pensions to certain widows:" that she is the *widow of George Stevenson*, who was a private in the army of the revolution. But she cannot say in what company, or regiment, or line, he served. Her memory is greatly impaired, and she cannot remember the day of the month of her marriage, nor her exact age, but knows it to be over seventy years. She states that her husband (*George Stevenson*) was a pensioner, and that his certificate from the War Department is endorsed: "Recorded by Daniel Boyd, clerk, in Book E, vol. 8, p. 24." She further declares that she was married to the said *George Stevenson* on the — day of January, in the year one thousand seven hundred and eighty-three; that her husband (the aforesaid *George Stevenson*) died on the thirteenth day of September, A. D. one thousand eight hundred and thirty-eight; that she was not married to him prior to his leaving the service, but the marriage took place previous to the first of January, one thousand seven hundred and ninety-four, viz: at the time above stated. She further states that she does not know, but inclines to believe, that there is no record proof of her said marriage.

her
CATHARINE x STEVENSON.
mark.

Sworn to and subscribed in open court, April nine, one thousand eight hundred and thirty-nine.

ELLIOTT C. VORE, *Clerk pro tem.*

STATE OF OHIO, *Knox county, ss.*

Personally appeared, at the same time and place, *George Stevenson, jr.*, third son of the said *George and Catharine Stevenson*, and aged forty-eight years, who, being first duly sworn according to law, deposes and says: That the within-named *Catharine Stevenson* is the widow of *George Stevenson*; that the said *George* died on the thirteenth day of September, A. D. one thousand eight hundred and thirty-eight; and that the said *Catharine* hath not since intermarried with any person. He further states that his oldest brother, *Thomas Stevenson*, is in his fifty-fourth or fifty-fifth year; and that the said *George Stevenson* was a pensioner of the United States under the law of June 7, 1832.

GEORGE STEVENSON.

Sworn to and subscribed before me, in open court, April nine, one thousand eight hundred and thirty-nine.

ELLIOTT C. VORE, *Clerk pro tem.*

Henry Graham appeared in open court, and at the same time and place; and, being first duly sworn according to law, upon his oath, says: That George Stevenson died in September, one thousand eight hundred and thirty-eight, and that his widow, the said Catharine Stevenson, has not been married since.

HENRY GRAHAM.

Sworn to and subscribed in open court, before me, this ninth day of April, one thousand eight hundred and thirty-nine.

ELLIOTT C. VORE, *Clerk pro tem.*

I, Ezra Dean, president judge of the court of common pleas for the county of Knox and State of Ohio, do hereby certify that the within-named Catharine Stevenson, George Stevenson, and Henry Graham, were duly sworn to testify the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, in reference to the matters above reduced to writing, and by them respectively subscribed; and that they were sworn to and subscribed the same in open court, on the day aforesaid. And I further hereby certify that the said deponents, Catharine Stevenson, George Stevenson, and Henry Graham, are persons of respectability, and worthy of credit and belief.

Given under my hand and seal, this ninth day of April, one thousand

[L. s.] eight hundred and thirty-nine.

E. DEAN, *President Judge.*

STATE OF OHIO, *Knox county, ss.*

I, Elliott C. Vore, clerk *pro tem.* of the court of common pleas for said county, do hereby certify that the Hon Ezra Dean is president judge of the court of common pleas for said county of Knox, and that the signature above, purporting to be his, is in fact his genuine signature.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of
[L. s.] said court, this ninth day of April, A. D. one thousand eight hundred and thirty-nine.

ELLIOTT C. VORE, *Clerk pro tem.*

STATE OF OHIO, *Franklin county, ss.*

Mrs. Rebecca McComb, being duly sworn, deposes and says: That she was acquainted with George Stevenson and Catharine McComb some time before the year one thousand seven hundred and eighty-three, and that the said George Stevenson and Catharine McComb were married some time in the year one thousand seven hundred and eighty-three, (1783,) in the "Middle Spring Congregation," in the county of Cumberland, in the State of Pennsylvania; that the marriage ceremony was performed by the Rev. Robert Cooper, of the Presbyterian church; and that the said Catharine McComb (now Catharine Stevenson) was a sister to the late husband of this deponent; and that this deponent was present when said marriage took place. And further this deponent saith not.

REBECCA McCOMB.

I, the subscriber, one of the justices of the peace of said county of Franklin, do hereby certify that the above affidavit was sworn to and subscribed before me; and that I am acquainted with the said Rebecca

McComb; that she is a person of respectability, and credit and confidence can be placed in her statement; that her credibility is not to be doubted.

In testimony whereof, I have hereto set my hand, this fifteenth day of March, A. D. one thousand eight hundred and thirty-nine.

JAMES CHERRY,

Justice of the Peace, Franklin County, Ohio.

STATE OF OHIO, *Franklin county, ss.*

I, Lyne Starling, jr., clerk of the court of common pleas within and for the county of Franklin, do hereby certify that James Cherry is an acting justice of the peace within and for the county aforesaid, on the fifteenth day of March, A. D. one thousand eight hundred and thirty-nine, duly elected and qualified.

Given under my hand and seal, at the clerk's office, in the city of Columbus, this fifteenth day of March, A. D. one thousand eight hundred and thirty-nine.

Attest:

L. STARLING, JR., *Clerk.*

D.

MOUNT VERNON, (O.), *April 27, 1839.*

SIR: I send, herewith, an application of Mrs. Catharine Stevenson for the benefit of the provision of the act of Congress passed July 7, 1838.

I hope I shall not be thought troublesome if I call your attention again to the application of Mrs. Ruth Shipley, which I forwarded to you nearly six months since. The delay is doubtless attributable to an inadequate supply of officers for the duties imposed by Congress upon your department.

The wants of these aged and infirm applicants are urgent; and the fear that, unless the public aid intended for them is soon rendered, it will come too late, doubtless renders them impatient. I trust, therefore, if an undue anxiety should be thought to exist in reference to their applications, that it will be remembered that it is entertained by a class of people whose circumstances and age entitle them to indulgence.

Very respectfully, yours,

R. C. HURD.

J. L. EDWARDS, Esq.,

Commissioner of Pensions, Washington D. C.

E.

MARTINSBURG, OHIO, *June 24, 1843.*

SIR: I write a few lines to you for Catharine Stevenson, widow of George Stevenson, who was a revolutionary pensioner. Her declaration, with the proof of marriage, was sent to your office by Esquire Herd, of Mount Vernon, about 1840 or 1841, who claimed under the law of 1838, but was not included by that law; under the amendment, she is. Her papers were not returned; which declaration, I suppose, is sufficient to grant her a certificate.

Yours, with respect,

ABRAHAM DAY.

J. L. EDWARDS, Esq., *Washington, D. C.*

F.

MARTINSBURG, OHIO, *August 24, 1845.*

DEAR SIR: Mr. Abraham Day received from you a letter dated the 3d July last, in reference to the claim of Catharine Stevenson, the widow of George Stevenson, who was a pensioner under the act of June 7, 1832.

In consequence of having myself made out for Mr. Stevenson the declaration upon which he was allowed a pension, and having some recollection of the statements made by him of the particulars of his service, both before and at the time he made his declaration, Mr. Day has requested me to write to you on the subject. I have to say that I was personally acquainted with Mr. Stevenson for about twenty years prior to his death; and that during that period (and for a long time before, as I have been informed,) he was a worthy member of the Presbyterian church, distinguished for piety, probity, and an upright character; and that he served as he stated, I have no reason to doubt.

You say that "he was unadvisedly allowed a pension." "He set forth the statement of three months as a draught in 1776, as a Pennsylvania militiaman under Captain Culberson; five months as a volunteer lieutenant under Captain McCammon, also in 1776; seven months volunteer private in same company, in 1777; three months draughted first lieutenant under Captain Culberson in 1778; and three years prisoner with the Indians from 1780.

"The department is not informed that any such terms of service were either required or rendered by the Pennsylvania militia. Their tours were limited to two months only, and rarely reached it, as the calls upon them were to meet the emergency of certain occasions. This very strange and contradictory account of his being an officer in one tour, and then a draughted man in another of the same militia company, is unsupported by any evidence."

Now, sir, how the statement of his having been draughted as a private under Captain Culberson in 1776, and his being again draughted as first lieutenant in the same militia company in 1778, is either "strange or contradictory," I am at a loss to determine. He might have been a private in 1776, and before he was again draughted, in 1778, been elected as first lieutenant in the militia company to which he belonged.

And again: the statement of his service as a volunteer has nothing strange in it. In the year 1776 Captain McCammon raised a company of volunteers, who elected their own officers. Stevenson was elected lieutenant; served five months, and was discharged. And again, in 1777, Captain McCammon raised by voluntary enrolment another company, into which said Stevenson volunteered his services, and served seven months as a private. There is nothing in this statement that is improbable, "strange, or contradictory."

I recollect distinctly Mr. George Stevenson's statements to me: that when the terms of service expired for which he was draughted, he, and others who could stay, were prevailed upon by the commander-in-chief to continue longer in service, from the scarcity of men, and the urgent necessity of the case.

If it is necessary, affidavits can be procured from many respectable persons, proving the statements made by Mr. Stevenson, in his lifetime, in

relation to his services in the war of the revolution ; also to his general character for truth and veracity, which has never been questioned or impeached, until I saw an intimation of it in your letter, ("strange and contradictory.") I suppose you do not doubt his being a prisoner three years, as he states ; and, if not, are his sufferings there to pass for no account ?

But to require at this time positive proof of his service, in addition to his former declaration, when he is dead, and probably all those with whom he served, would be applying a hard rule, and one that would deprive the widow of all the benefit contemplated and designed by the law.

If you should require such affidavits as above stated, you will please to inform Mr. Day.

Yours, respectfully,

WILLIAM McCREARY.

Hon. J. L. EDWARDS.

G.

MARTINSBURG, OHIO, *November 12, 1844.*

DEAR SIR: In the case of the application of Mrs. Catharine Stevenson for a pension, I received a letter from you about a year ago, requiring that proof of the service of her husband, George Stevenson, be again furnished to the department ; whereupon, not expecting to get the proof required, Mrs. Stevenson concluded to present her case to Congress, and thereupon forwarded her petition, directed to the member from this district, (Hon. Heman A. Moore,) for that purpose ; but she afterwards got additional proof of his service from Pennsylvania, and forwarded the same to Mr. Moore, requesting him to file the proof at the Pension Office, and withhold the petition until the result was known in your office. Mr. Moore afterwards died ; since which time, I have heard nothing from the department nor Mr. Moore in relation to the case. I therefore wish to be informed whether said additional proof was ever filed in your office by Mr. Moore.

Yours, respectfully,

WILLIAM McCREARY.

Hon. J. L. EDWARDS.

H.

WASHINGTON, *December 16, 1844.*

SIR : In the case of William Gorman, if my certificate as to the respectability of the surgeons in their profession is all that is required, I will call and give it ; for, if my recollection serves me, I am well acquainted with them. Please inform me on this subject. I have received a letter on the subject of the claim of Catharine Stevenson, widow of George Stevenson, for a pension. She desires that if you cannot grant her relief, that you would state the objection, and furnish me with the papers, that they may be referred to the Committee on [Revolutionary] Pensions of the House of Representatives.

During the last session of Congress, I sent to your office certain papers, one of which was the evidence that — Owens, the husband of Nancy Owens, the applicant, had received a pension in his lifetime as a soldier in the revolutionary war, and claiming a pension as his widow. I have not yet received your final decision in the case. I beg to call your attention to this subject.

With great respect, your obedient servant,

ALEX. HARPER.

J. L. EDWARDS, Esq.

P. S.—Mrs. Stevenson resides in Knox county, Ohio.

PENSION OFFICE, July 3, 1843.

SIR: In the case of Catharine Stevenson, the claim was not examined upon its merits in 1839, when her attorney was informed that it was not provided for by any existing law; but, upon reference to his papers, under the act of June 7, 1832, it is apparent that he was unadvisedly allowed a pension. He set forth the statement of three months as a draught in 1776, as a Pennsylvania militia-man, under Captain Culberson; five months as a volunteer lieutenant under Captain McCammon, also in 1776; seven months volunteer private in same company in 1777; three months draughted 1st lieutenant, under Captain Culberson, in 1778; and three years prisoner with the Indians from 1780.

The department is not informed that any such terms of service were either required or rendered by the Pennsylvania militia. Their tours were limited to two months only, and rarely reached it, as the calls upon them were to meet the emergency of certain occasions. This very strange and contradictory account of his being an officer in one tour, and then a draughted man in another, of the same militia company, is unsupported by any evidence. Unless she can make out, by satisfactory *proof*, a sufficient number of tours to make an aggregate of six months' service, she cannot be allowed a pension.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. L. EDWARDS,
Commissioner of Pensions.

ABRAHAM DAY, Esq.,
Martinsburg, Ohio.

